



## Early Journal Content on JSTOR, Free to Anyone in the World

This article is one of nearly 500,000 scholarly works digitized and made freely available to everyone in the world by JSTOR.

Known as the Early Journal Content, this set of works include research articles, news, letters, and other writings published in more than 200 of the oldest leading academic journals. The works date from the mid-seventeenth to the early twentieth centuries.

We encourage people to read and share the Early Journal Content openly and to tell others that this resource exists. People may post this content online or redistribute in any way for non-commercial purposes.

Read more about Early Journal Content at <http://about.jstor.org/participate-jstor/individuals/early-journal-content>.

JSTOR is a digital library of academic journals, books, and primary source objects. JSTOR helps people discover, use, and build upon a wide range of content through a powerful research and teaching platform, and preserves this content for future generations. JSTOR is part of ITHAKA, a not-for-profit organization that also includes Ithaka S+R and Portico. For more information about JSTOR, please contact [support@jstor.org](mailto:support@jstor.org).

the results of experimental breeding will show how various human afflictions may be eliminated.

Dr. E. E. Tyzzer (*Journ. of Med. Res.*, 1907, vol. 17, p. 199-211) discusses the inheritance of tumors in mice. Although "the analysis of data derived from a large number of human cases has failed to furnish evidence that a predisposition to cancer is inherited," it is known that some races of mice are susceptible to transplanted tumors and that other races are not. In one of the susceptible races spontaneous tumors were found in four individuals in a family of twenty-six, there being one case in each of four generations. The data obtained are insufficient "to prove or disprove that the development of a tumor is dependent upon the presence of an inherited character, although they may appear to favor this view." Further experiments upon this vital subject are in progress.

**Malaria in Ancient Greece and Rome.**<sup>1</sup>—"Modern Greece is intensely malarious. . . . It has been estimated that in the unhealthy year 1905, out of a total population of only about two and a half millions, nearly a million people were attacked with malaria and nearly six thousand died." The three authors of the little book under consideration believe that malaria was introduced into Greece in the fifth century B. C. by "soldiers, merchants or slaves coming from Africa or Asia, the ancient homes of malaria." In the fourth century B. C., it became prevalent, and it is considered to be an important cause for the sentimentalism in art, pessimism in philosophy, and decay in morality characteristic of that century. "By 300 B. C., the Greeks had lost much of their manly vigor and intellectual strength. . . . Malaria made the Greek weak and inefficient; it turned the sterner Roman into a bloodthirsty brute." It was endemic in Rome probably from the second century B. C. It is implied that the modern atrocities of white men in tropical regions may be due in part to malaria; and attention is called to the immunity of Japan in contrast with the prevalence of malaria in China as an influence in modern history. The evidence for these propositions, as found in this book, will interest students of medicine, history, and the classics.

**The Distribution of European Animals.**—Dr. Scharff's well known *History of the European Fauna*, published in 1899 and critically dis-

<sup>1</sup> Malaria. A neglected factor in the history of Greece and Rome. By W. H. S. Jones. With an introduction by Major R. Ross and a concluding chapter by G. G. Ellett. London, Macmillan & Co., 1907. 108 pp.

cussed by Dr. Stejneger in the *American Naturalist* (1901, vol. 25, p. 87-116) has been followed by another book upon the same subject.<sup>1</sup> The problem of animal distribution is simply and clearly presented by means of outline maps on which the occurrence of a single species is plotted in black; in an unoccupied corner of each chart a picture of the animal is inserted. In a few cases the former land areas have also been indicated. Thus Fig. 6 shows a fresh water lake in place of the Irish Sea, from which the fresh water herrings (*Coregonus*) travelled up the streams to lakes in northern Ireland and western England and Scotland, where they are now isolated. Some of the charts deal with the distribution of plants, which are "subject to the same laws of dispersal as animals." Although "the occasional transport of species by wind or by marine currents has probably taken place sometimes," Dr. Scharff believes that it does not effect the constitution of an island fauna very materially. Twice he cites evidence that birds during migration do not have seeds in their crops or adhering to their bodies. Distribution is to be explained chiefly by geographical changes, and leads to such conclusions as that the Azores were not connected by land with America but only with Europe. The Canary Islands, however, "must have formed part of the land which connected Africa with America, in early Tertiary times."

Dr. Scharff believes that there was no "exceptional destruction" of the British fauna and flora during the glacial period. He is of the opinion that "the whole of the existing Irish fauna is of pre-glacial age" and that "a more uniformly humid climate of Europe may have favored the production of glaciers without decreasing the temperature." The criticisms of this hypothesis by Dr. Stejneger and others are noted by Dr. Scharff. The book is an admirable presentation of the purpose and importance of studies in animal and plant distribution.

**The Dancing Mouse.**<sup>2</sup>—Current publications have been so occupied with presenting and discussing faulty accounts of animal behavior that the public is scarcely aware of a science dealing with this subject. In a well written book entitled *The Dancing Mouse* Dr. Yerkes presents the methods and some of the results of this study. The dancing mouse, as described in the first chapters, is a domesticated animal of

<sup>1</sup> Scharff, R. F. European animals: their geological history and geographical distribution. New York, E. P. Dutton & Co., 1907. xiv+258 pp., 70 figs. \$2.50.

<sup>2</sup> Yerkes, R. M. The dancing mouse. A study in animal behavior. New York. The Macmillan Company, 1907. xxi+290 pp., 33 figs. \$1.25.